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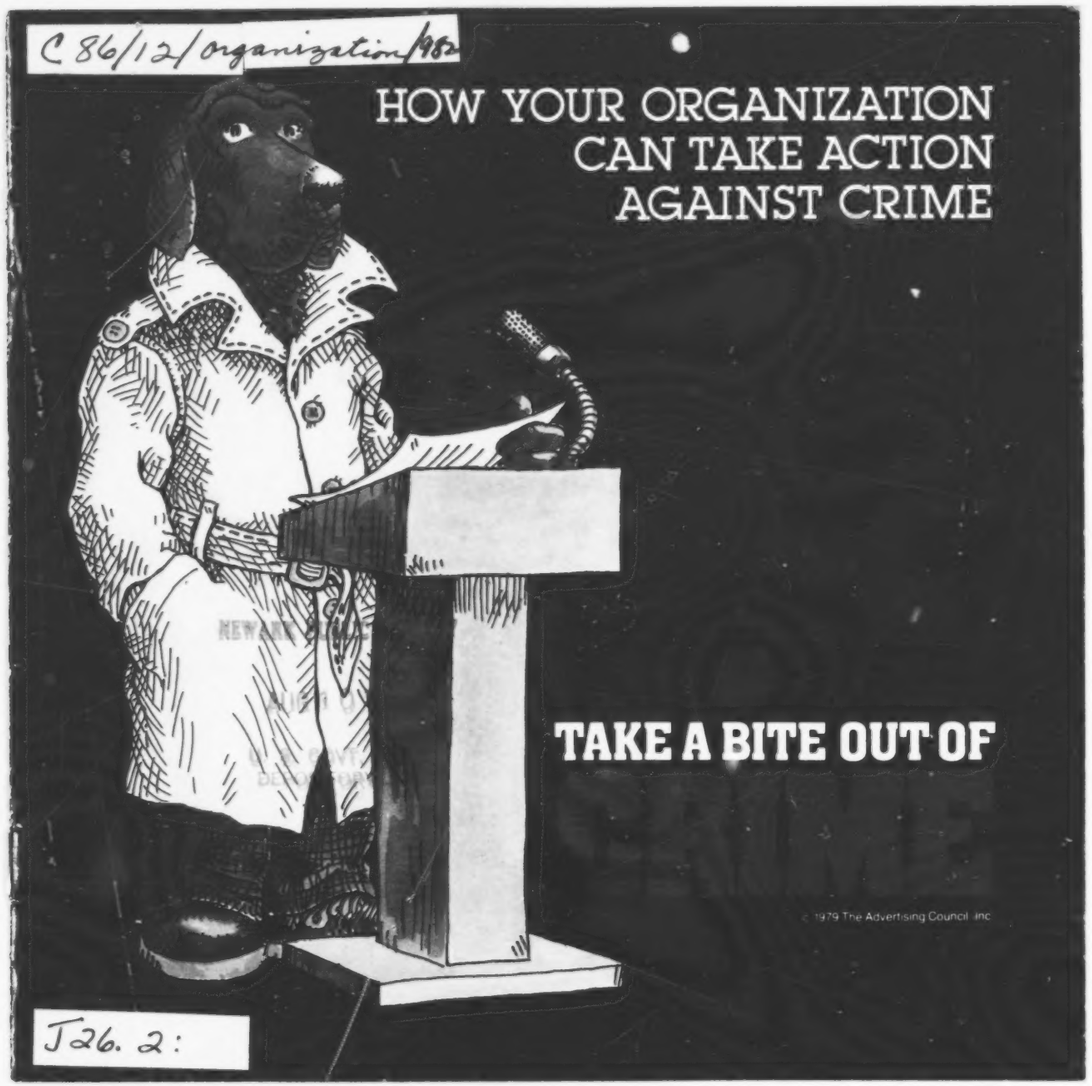

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"As one of man's best friends, I've worked with people all my life! So I can really appreciate the way people like to work together.

You'll be seeing a lot of me, on TV, billboards and bus cards, and in newspapers and magazines. My job is to give you some easy lessons on crimeproofing your homes and neighborhoods.

Whatever group or organization you belong to, you're probably working to make your community a better place to live. So how about helping to make it a **safer** place to live? This booklet shows some of the ways your club or association can help me . . .

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

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A National Crime Prevention Campaign

Crime is everybody's business. You've heard that before. But you may not have realized that "everybody" includes you and your club or association. It does!

Civic groups, service clubs, PTA's, business associations, fraternal groups, professional societies, labor unions—all make great crime fighters. They've learned that working together can lower crime rates, reduce fear, and best yet, build a sense of community.

What can your group do? Plenty. Consider these examples:

- The LaVerne-San Dimas (California) Junior Woman's Club joined with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and a local savings and loan institution to protect elderly citizens against con games. The Woman's Club persuaded the savings and loan institution to finance publication of crime prevention brochures that are enclosed in customers' monthly statements. The banks also provide space for monthly community group meetings chaired by the sheriff and featuring a film about fraud prevention. "Operation Con Game" has been so successful in Los Angeles County that it is now being adopted statewide.
- The AFL-CIO's Department of Community Services has trained union members to improve personal and neighborhood safety and help establish needed criminal justice programs. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers have instituted "Crime Watch" in cities across the country. Local police issue daily lists of stolen vehicle license plate numbers or mug shots of wanted criminals. Police-trained letter carriers keep watch along their routes and report their findings to police.
- The Chamber of Commerce in Battle Creek, Michigan, sponsors a Silent Observer Program which offers rewards for information leading to the arrest of criminal suspects.
- Volunteers of the Cook County Court Watching Project (started by the Illinois League of Women Voters) observe courtroom proceedings and take notes on what they see. Their recommendations led to a number of improvements: an information office in the courthouse lobby, directional signs, and bilingual notices of defendants' rights posted in the courtrooms.

Organizations participating in the Crime Prevention Coalition support activities like those mentioned above, and others that are listed in the Project Idea Guide at the back of this booklet. The Coalition, a group of more than 40 non-profit organizations and federal agencies, wants more

people to get involved in preventing crime. That's why they're supporting the national crime prevention campaign. Each organization in the Coalition also is committed to building awareness among its members. Your organization can do the same. This booklet tells you how.

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Choosing a Role for Your Organization

No matter what your organization's interest, membership, or structure, it can play a role in crime prevention.
National organizations can:

- Adopt crime prevention as a **national priority**, choosing staff to plan the program, developing project packages for local units, and disseminating information.
- Suggest **project models** for local chapters. The possibilities are extensive: women's groups, for example, often operate programs to deter sexual assault and spouse abuse; business and trade associations focus on reducing workplace crime and shoplifting; other groups bring community leaders and law enforcement officials together to devise strategies to combat specific crimes.
- **Inform members** about crime and crime prevention through existing newsletters or magazines. You might even develop a specialized crime prevention publication. Run a regular feature on home security tips. Report on crimes that were prevented thanks to citizen action. Report on crimes that **weren't** prevented — and offer ways to prevent them in the future.

READEX MICRO

As with any venture, your involvement in crime prevention requires careful planning. Before you start, you'll want to:

- Analyze the capabilities of your organization and the interests of your members.
- Identify and explore specific crime problems. Law enforcement experts are your best source of information.
- Learn about the prevention programs you're considering. Contact some of the organizations listed in the Idea Guide at the end of this brochure.
- Set priorities – the opportunities for action far outstrip the resources of most organizations. Match programs to your group's capabilities, and consider trying a combination of approaches to crime prevention. This may encourage more members to participate.
- Evaluate progress regularly – and candidly. A program that works for someone else may not work equally well for you.

Learn More About Community Crime Prevention

Always check with state and local law enforcement agencies before starting any kind of community crime prevention program. The national organizations participating in the Crime Prevention Coalition and their local chapters and affiliates also can be helpful, so don't hesitate to ask them for information. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) is Secretariat to the Coalition, supporting and coordinating its activities. On behalf of the Coalition, NCCD stands as a ready source of assistance:

Training

NCCD will train the staff and key volunteers of nationally affiliated organizations. The training covers crime prevention programming and techniques with a special focus on personal, home and neighborhood security.

Technical Assistance

NCCD will help organizations analyze neighborhood and business-related crime problems, gain community support, locate funding sources and establish programs.

Public Relations

NCCD will help programs gain local media coverage of their activities and develop their own outreach methods such as newsletters and fliers. Citizen groups can use NCCD-prepared articles and photos on crime prevention in their own publications. NCCD will prepare crime prevention articles specifically for national organizations' publications.

If your organization is interested in becoming involved in the national citizen's crime prevention campaign, the Crime Prevention Coalition can help you find a way. Write or call:

CRIME PREVENTION COALITION
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
411 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
(201) 488-0400

For additional information about crime prevention, write or call:

National Criminal Justice
Reference Service
P.O. Box 6600
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 251-5500

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Project Idea Guide

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
I. PUBLIC EDUCATION		
Awareness is the first step. Begin by building a library of resource materials and sending away for the brochures developed as part of this campaign. For a well-rounded view consult with criminal justice professionals and citizens. Spread the word on crime prevention through . . .		
Educational materials. Fliers, brochures, posters, bumper stickers, buttons. Make sure style and graphics attract attention and convey the message.	The National Sheriffs' Association sponsors the National Neighborhood Watch Program. A wide array of promotional materials is available at no cost to requesting organizations and individuals. Civic groups can support the campaign by distributing materials and organizing forums for police presentations.	National Neighborhood Watch Program National Sheriffs' Association Suite 320 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 872-0442
	The Georgia Retailers' Association sponsors a multi-faceted approach to the problem of shoplifting. Pamphlets, posters, films, newspaper ads, and TV and radio announcements are all available to local merchants and organizations at nominal fees. With the help of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the anti-shoplifting campaign is slated for nationwide promotion.	Georgia Retailers' Association Suite 14-A-10 Atlanta Merchandise Mart Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 577-3435
Conferences. Crime prevention experts and citizens share information and discuss their views.	The National Exchange Club has developed a two-part format for a Community Counter-Crime Conference. Part 1 is instructional, featuring a slide presentation narrated by a police officer. Part 2 is informational and encourages a dialogue between the audience and police, prosecutors and judges.	Check local phone directory for National Exchange Club or Chamber of Commerce
Community Gatherings. Fairs, award dinners, seminars. Make use of any opportunity to convene a group of people and share information about crime prevention.	Each October National Safety on the Streets Week focuses attention on street crime and ways to combat it. Resourceful groups often take this opportunity to sponsor presentation ceremonies, police open houses, parades, and other community affairs that attract media attention and citizen interest.	Women's Department National Safety Council 425 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 527-4800

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
II. CRIME PREVENTION TECHNIQUES Membership meetings are an ideal forum for introducing crime prevention information and techniques. Invite your local crime prevention or community relations officer to demonstrate or explain . . .		
Security Surveys. An inspection of your home or business, identifying security weaknesses and recommending corrective measures.	Organized neighbors in Seattle, Washington, joined Operation Identification, signed up for security surveys, and formed active block-watch groups. They helped cut burglary in half in their neighborhoods!	Community Crime Prevention Program City of Seattle Department of Community Development 400 Yesler Way Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 625-4724
Operation Identification. Permanently marking valuable property with an identifying number to prevent theft. Make an inventory of your marked valuables and leave a copy with police. Post warning decals on your doors and windows to deter potential burglars. If the property is stolen, the engraved number will help to recover your goods.		National Sheriffs' Association Suite 320 1250 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 872-0442
Neighborhood Watch. Re-creating the "small town" feeling where neighbors look out for each other. Great way to meet your neighbors – works well in apartments, too!	Police officers in Middletown, Ohio, attend block group meetings and register participants for Neighborhood Watch. Over a 5-month period, more than 4,000 people signed up – that's 21% of the town's population!	Middletown Police Department 1 Civic Center Middletown, Ohio 45042 (513) 425-7700 National Sheriffs' Association (See above)
Street Observers. Patrol selected streets and report suspicious activities to a CB base station or directly to police. Take along a neighbor, a noisemaker (or dog), and a two-way radio. Go by foot or in your car.	In West Virginia, the Women's Club of Cross Lanes established a Community Watch Patrol using CB radios. The citizen patrols report violations to county and state law enforcement agencies. The state Department of Public Safety found a significant crime reduction after only 1 year of operation!	General Federation of Women's Clubs HANDS UP Program 1728 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 347-6450

Project Idea Guide

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
Postal Alert. Letter carriers are trained by police to watch for and report problems or unusual activities along their routes.	Local postmasters in Cleveland, Ohio, manage a postal alert program for elderly and handicapped residents. Those who join the program leave with their postmaster the names and numbers of their next-of-kin or other person to contact in case of emergency. A distinctive mark inside their mailboxes identifies them to letter carriers as postal alert members. If a member's mail has been left in the box for several days, or if there are other signs of trouble, the letter carrier informs the postmaster, who in turn notifies the next-of-kin.	National Association of Letter Carriers Director of Community Services St. Clair Division, United Way 1A South Church Street Belleville, IL 62220 (618) 233-8441
Tenant Patrols. Same as street observers, but in high rise apartment buildings.	Tenants in one apartment complex in Long Island City, New York, report that the crime rate dropped 40% since tenants started patrolling their building.	Queensbridge Houses 10-06 41 Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101 (212) 392-6440
Block Parents. Temporarily shelter kids who are lost, sick or frightened.	Block parents are trained and certified by police. School children are taught to look for a distinctive sign on the door or window. The block parents don't counsel or give medication – they notify parents or police and comfort the child until help arrives.	Contact local parent-teacher group or state PTA for information.
Youth Escort Services. Youngsters accompany elderly people to and from stores, the bank or wherever else they need to go. Senior citizens feel safer and kids benefit from performing a valuable crime prevention service.	In New York City's Chinatown, teenage boys escort elderly Chinese to the vegetable market, to doctors' offices, to hospitals. The elderly travel without fear and arrive safely at their destinations.	Chinatown Community Anti-Crime Project Immigrant Social Services, Inc. 137 Henry Street New York, NY 10002 (212) 571-1840

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
Promote the use of special crime prevention devices by making them readily available. Raise funds to purchase items and donate them outright, or loan them at small fees – whatever works best for your group.		
Noisemakers. Whistles, freon horns, shriek alarms. Carry one with you and use it whenever you fear trouble. The noise will help scare the offender away and alert your neighbors to call police.	Civic associations in Brooklyn, New York, advertise free "shriek alarms" to draw a crowd for every meeting. The people who come learn a lot about crime prevention before the alarms are given out when the meeting adjourns. The Brooklyn civic associations also loan "install-it-yourself" burglar alarms to vacationing members at $2 per weekend. The proceeds are used to buy more burglar alarms. One group started a year ago with 8 alarms and now has 30!	Midwood King's Highway Development Corporation 1416 Avenue M Brooklyn, NY 11230 (212) 376-0999
Automatic timers for lamps and radios. Plug them in and they turn your appliances on and off. It looks like you're home even when you're not.	A citizens group in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, raised funds to supply the police department with automatic timers. Vacationers borrow two at a time for a small fee.	Eden Prairie Police Department Eden Prairie Department of Public Safety 7905 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55343 (612) 944-2700
Buddy Buzzers are alarm systems that "sound off" in a neighboring store or apartment when the buddy's in trouble.	Buddy buzzers in small shops helped police arrest robbery suspects in the Bronx, New York. As a result, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce helped 400 member stores acquire the alarms.	Bronx Chamber of Commerce 226 E. Fordham Road Bronx, NY 10458 (212) 367-7200

Project Idea Guide

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
III. SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE In all cases, citizen action should complement the work of police, courts and corrections. Productive activities include:		
Police Citizen Crime Prevention Councils. Citizens learn about the role of the police while the police learn the citizens' perspective on the local crime picture.	In Hartford, Connecticut, a police-citizen council was instrumental in starting walking patrols in the local parks. Community residents helped clean up the neighborhood and put up fences as part of a larger environmental design project. One year later, the rates of burglary and robbery had decreased significantly.	Public Safety Committee Asylum Hill, Inc. 195 Farmington Ave. Hartford, Connecticut 06105 (203) 727-1033
Volunteer Probation Counselors. Work one-to-one with an adult or juvenile offender who has been sentenced not to jail, but to a period of court supervision.	A probation program in Lincoln, Nebraska, carefully screens, trains, and matches volunteer counselors with young probationers with a history of previous arrests. One year later, these probationers had committed 40% fewer new offenses than other probationers who hadn't met with volunteer counselors.	Municipal Court Probation Office Old Federal Building 129 North 10th Street Lincoln, NB 68508 (402) 473-6761
Volunteers in Corrections. Be a friend to a prison inmate. Remember his or her special occasions, provide transportation for visitors, help plan his or her eventual release.	Purdy Treatment Center for Women is a Washington State correctional institution. They sponsor monthly social meetings for inmates to meet prospective sponsors from the community. Sponsors visit and correspond regularly, sometimes bringing their families along. Sponsors even provide temporary shelter and help find jobs when inmates are released.	Purdy Treatment Center P.O. Box 17 Gig Harbor, WA 98335 (206) 858-9101
	U.S. Jaycees have set up more than 400 chapters within prisons. Among their projects is a nationwide effort to identify a "contact" person in every community to help new releasees with housing, employment, and other social needs. In Osborn, Connecticut, the local Jaycees compiled a list of possible employers for soon-to-be-released inmates.	U.S. Jaycees Director of Community Development Box 7 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74121 (918) 584-2481

METHODS	EXAMPLES	CONTACTS
Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. Assist and counsel crime victims immediately after the incident. Help witnesses get to court to testify.	Trained volunteers accompany staff of the Pima County Victim/Witness Advocate Program in unmarked radio-equipped police cars during high-crime periods—from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Patrolling crisis workers respond to calls from officers at the scene of a crime. Once there, crisis workers provide counseling, accompany victims to the hospital, and provide any other needed assistance. Police can resume their patrol efforts as soon as crisis workers arrive.	Victim/Witness Advocate Program 900 Pima County Courts Building 111 West Congress Tucson, Arizona 85701 (602) 792-8749
	Volunteers of the Peoria County Witness Information Service contact witnesses to remind them of court appearances and to answer questions. Volunteers in the courthouse answer witnesses' questions and help them find the proper courtroom. Witness appearance rates have increased dramatically.	Witness Information Service Peoria County Courthouse Peoria, Illinois 61602 (309) 672-6094
Court Watching. Observe court proceedings on a regular basis and take notes on what you see. With some training, your group can identify areas needing improvement, and court officials will seriously consider your recommendations.	Court watchers in Manhattan, New York, found that 9 out of 10 court sessions started at least 15 minutes late. The court watchers' report got a quick response: 6 months later, courts were convening on time more often. Court watchers also instigated the establishment of an information booth in the courthouse lobby.	The Fund for Modern Courts, Inc. 36 West 44th Street New York, NY 10036 (212) 575-1577

Organizations Participating in the Crime Prevention Coalition

The Advertising Council, Inc.
AFL-CIO Department of Community Services
American Association of Retired Persons
Boy Scouts of America
Bureau of Justice Statistics
Federal Bureau of Investigation
General Federation of Women's Clubs
General Services Administration Federal Protective Service
Insurance Information Institute
International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners
International Union of Police Associations
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Attorneys General
National Association of Counties
National Center for Community Crime Prevention
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Congress of Parents and Teachers
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
National Council of La Raza
National Council of Senior Citizens
National Crime Prevention Institute
National Criminal Justice Association
National District Attorneys Association
National Education Association
National Exchance Club
National Governors Association, Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Protection
National Institute of Justice
National League of Cities
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
National Retail Merchants Association
National Retired Teachers' Association
National Rural Crime Prevention Center
National Urban League
Neighborhoods, U.S.A.
Office of Justice Assistance, Research, and Statistics
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Optimist International
Police Executive Research Forum
Service Corps of Retired Executives
U.S. Conference of Mayors
U.S. Department of the Air Force
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of the Treasury, Direct Deposit Program
U.S. Jaycees

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